

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on February 24, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Additionally attached to this Amendment is a Petition for a One-month Extension of Time, extending the period for response to June 24, 2006.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended specification. Claims 1 and 11 are the independent claims. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Initially, the disclosure was objected to because Page 1, Lines 20 recited "STRAT" instead of "START". In response thereto, the paragraph on page 1, line 15 through page 2, line 2, has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. As such, this objection should be withdrawn.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 8 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, these claims have not been amended into independent form, since it is respectfully submitted that the rejected base claims 1 and 11 are also patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hino et al.* (US 6,002,906) in view of Nakagawa (US 5,141,346). It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Applicant's independent claim 1 recites an image reading device, including a continuous reading controller switch and a control unit. The continuous reading controller switch is for receiving a continuous reading instruction of a user and outputting a control signal. The control unit is for controlling the image reading device and receiving the control signal to implement the continuous reading and outputting operations of the image reading device. When the continuous reading controller switch is initiated by the user, the control unit drives the image reading device to read a page of a packaged document placed at a reading position, and **after a time period predetermined by the control unit** to allow the scanned page to be turned over, another page of packaged document placed at the reading position is then **continued to be read**. That is, the invention only requires **one initial operation** by the user to perform the continuous reading of a **packaged document**, which has scanned pages that need to be turned over.

The Examiner acknowledged that *Hino et al.* fail to disclose that after a time period predetermined by the control unit to allow the scanned page to be turned over, another page of the packaged document placed at the reading position is then continued to be read, but alleges that *Nakagawa* overcomes this deficiency.

However, *Nakagawa* discloses that an automatic sheet feeder 8 of a printer 1 comprises a hopper 9 for storing a stack of separate sheets P, and feeding the sheets P, one by one, to the print assembly 3 (Col. 5, lines 53-57). The printer 1 further comprises a control unit 63 that can be set to an automatic sheet feeding mode (corresponding to the first mode) which is carried out by the automatic sheet feeder 8 (Col. 9, lines 67-68), or a continuous-form sheet printing mode or a manual sheeting inserting mode (both corresponding to the second mode) (Col. 10, lines 6-9). The continuous-form sheet printing mode and the manual sheet inserting mode are selected one at a time by a control switch on the printer 1 (Col. 10, lines 12-14). The feeding paths of the continuous-form sheet and a single sheet manually inserted are described in more detail in the paragraph (Col. 11, lines 42-68) pointed out by the Examiner. However, it is noted that the control unit of *Nakagawa* is only used for switching those two sheet-feeding modes, rather than controlling time period between two scanned actions. *Nakagawa* therefore fails to disclose or suggest that, after a time period predetermined by the control unit to allow the scanned page to be turned over, another page of the packaged document placed at the reading position is then continued to be read.

Thus, even if the teachings of *Hino et al.* and *Nakagawa* were combined, the combination would not result in the claimed invention. It is therefore submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

It is therefore submitted that Applicant's independent claim 1, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are not rendered obvious by the cited references. Moreover, the independent claim 11 includes limitations similar those of claim 1, except that the subject matter thereof is a continuous reading controlling device. It therefore is submitted that independent claim 11, as well as the claims dependant therefrom, are patentable over the applied references for at least the same reasons that the independent claim 1 is patentable. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

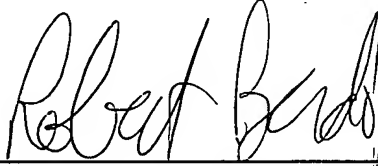
The Examiner has also rejected dependent claims 7-10, 17, 19 and 20 as being obvious over *Hino et al.* in view of various secondary references. However, since these dependent claims all depend from allowable claims 1 or 11, and since none of these secondary references overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *Hino et al.*, it is submitted that these claims are likewise patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 11. It is requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1-20 earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



June 16, 2006

Date

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